

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 23-24 have been cancelled without prejudice, claim 25 placed into independent form, and claim 28 has been amended to depend on new independent claim 25 in order to clarify the issues on appeal. This Amendment is concurrently filed with the supplemental Appeal Brief.

Conclusion

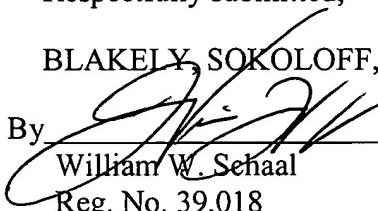
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 12/04/2003

By


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